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Title: Need for effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Bihar and other parts of the country -laid.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is an excellent opportunity to tackle the widespread unemployment and poverty in our rural countryside where agriculture is the sole means of earning livelihood. This makes them dependent on the monsoon and whenever it fails drought prevails as in my constituency Aurangabad for two successive years. It means enormous distress for farmers and farm labourers which is heightened by lack of opportunities for alternative employment.

This scheme provides opportunities for some employment to the rural needy and makes them eligible for monetary compensation, it may not fully eliminate unemployment but if implemented with sincerity it will be a big step towards progressively reducing poverty. But, it is not being implemented diligently. A very small number of job cards are being issued and, where issued, very few jobs are awarded. The requisite allowance is also not paid. Funds meant for this scheme have been withdrawn but not disbursed.

The Government should not permit this situation. It should have a monitoring mechanism to check actual progress district wise in the country, especially in Bihar. This will ensure the effective implementation of the scheme.